WRESTLING THEN & NOW

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"I SEE YOUR FACE BEFORE ME!"
LIKE THIS
OR THIS
★ BOLO TO UNMASK IF HE IS PINNED!
★ WHIP TO RETIRE & PAY OVER $500. TO CHARITY IF HE LOSES THIS ONE TO THE GREAT BOLO
NO TIME LIMIT!
WOW THE GARDENS WILL BE A-ROCKIN' THIS COMING THURSDAY!

WHIPPER WATSON VS. THE GREAT BOLO

"the flaccidity of tall white bodies which collapse with one blow or crash into the ropes with arms flailing, the inertia of massive wrestlers rebounding pitiably off all the elastic surfaces of the ring, nothing can signify more clearly and more passionately the exemplary abasement of the vanquished."
—Roland Barthes,
"The World of Wrestling"
1957

WRESTLING ART- THEN & NOW

"Hollywood" John does what "Hollywood" John does best... boast!

GINZBURG'S GAB

Welcome to another nostalgic issue of WT&N, and Happy Thanksgiving to everyone out there!

It's election time in the "real world" (as opposed to the wrestling world, sheetdom, and other surreal worlds), and I can only think of one political ticket that would unite America. How's this one grab you- funk master George CLINTON, the hippest man in the universal and undoubtedly a Liberal (used to occasionally go on stage NAKED- sounds pretty liberal to me!), with Barbara BUSH (probably the most popular woman in the country and a Republican). They could form the One Nation Under A Groove Party. Actually politics turn me off altogether as I generally get the feeling that once you get most of these guys off the golf course they're clueless. Try riding the N.Y. subways to work everyday for a real dose of reality, guys- and thanks for reminding us just how morally bankrupt us city folk are. By the way, anyone remember the old photo of Jimmy Carter with a headlock on Mr. Wrestling 2 that used to float around? (Better yet, any of you young folk even remember Mr. Wrestling 2)? I used to get a kick out of Gordon Solie who simply called the masked man, "Wrestling 2" or sometimes even "2!"

Wasn't life oh so simpler then?

My new place is shaping up- even have some wrestling stuff on the walls- an autographed 8 X 10 of Mil Mascaras, a lucha poster and some wild framed artwork by WT&N cover artist Wayne St. Wayne. (Readers, check out this guy's color stuff- beautiful!) Recently had my buddy, the reknowned Mike Lano spend some time and maybe I'll write up some of our escapades in a future issue. Life with Lano- sounds like a story (or a bad sitcom).

I can count the # of live wrestling shows I've seen in N.Y. this year on one hand (with some fingers left over!).

Which brings me to a related point. Some of my readers say, "How come you call it Wrestling-Then & Now when there's hardly ever any "now" in it?" Well, I didn't want to totally alienate younger readers and thus the title, but is there all that much worth writing about that the other 55 sheets haven't done to death (and even much of that isn't worth reading about!). I mean, let's be honest. The PPV comes on and generally only one or two matches are memorable (if that many). The shows are analyzed ad nauseum like it's the Super Bowl (which come to think of it generally isn't all that great either!) Anyway, should the "now" ever get nearly as good as the "then", maybe I'll cover more of it! Don't hold your breath though faithful readers...

Serious jams caught live (A.K.A. Evan's obscure musical faves!)- Guitar God Sonny Sharrock, bluesman Son Seal, jazz great George Coleman, Maceo Parker with Fred Wesley & The JB Horns (Trombonist Wesley told me James Brown asked him back recently but he doesn't pay well enough. Some bad blood there. See, don't say I never give you any INSIDE info!), Afro-Pop KING- Fela, Smokey Robinson (a great American POET) and many, many more. Hey, if it reads wrestling on the marquee, and it just ain't worth seeing (the initials WWF come readily to mind), then save that money and check out something new musical ly! Yo u gener ally w on't b e disappointed...

Saw a one man show based on the life of Muhammed Ali. A passage dealt with Ali meeting Gorgeous George on a radio show and learning the art of hyping the gate and selling tix. In issue #24 we presented Frank Gotch meets Jack Johnson, and this issue we have Ali (Cassius Clay) meeting Gorgeous George. Sometimes when legends collide, history changes and so it was on this day. Ali fans should pick up Ferdie Pacheco's Muhammed Ali, A View From The Corner- fascinating reading. "The Champ" was a childhood hero of mine and always will remain that way...

If you haven't seen Clint Eastwood's Unforgiven, or the mini-series Lonesome Dove, don't you dare miss them. Anyone saying the western is dead is DEAD wrong.

The WT&N 1992 annual is going to be pulled out of circulation come Dec. 31 so I can work on 1993's and concentrate to marketing that, so grab it now if you haven't. 100 plus clips/50 pgs- The History Of The Territories. $7. Details on the '93 annual upcoming.

Back issue packages (issues 1-33) only $22.50. Over 300 pgs. of memories- new readers, don't pass it up!

Thanks to everyone for reading WT&N. (well, everyone except those grubbing a bootleg copy! Hey, fellows, break down for the $1.25 will ya!?). Believe me, nostalgia's a tough sell with so many old fans long gone (can you blame 'em?). I realize times are hard and money's tight, and don't mean for this to sound like a telethon, but without YOU there's no WT&N so I'm counting on you for your continued support! I don't want to go the way of Matwatch & Sushi, but even after 3 years of pushing & plugging, it ain't easy! Renew today and support this underdog sheet if your subscriptions are up!

Upcoming WT&N interviews (most supplemented with great rare clips): the legendary Killer Kowalski, Ivan Koloff, Vladimir Koloff, Pez Whatley with CANDID talk about racism in wrestling, Bart Sawyer, The Terminator (Animal's soon to be very famous brother) and many, many more to be announced. EACH and every issue of WT&N features an interview, so don't you dare miss 'em! (Geez, sometimes I sound like Marvel comics from the 60's when I hype this thing). "'Nuff said!"

Remember, we always welcome new correspondents, so feel free to write for WT&N. And if you send me a letter, I just may print it eventually (tell me you love me- it's almost a sureshot!).

The Wrestling Time Machine column this issue is a piece I did in the late 70's for my college paper. I occasionally run these to let you get a look into what was going on in the heads of hardcores back then.

Later y'all. We dare to be different and I'm glad you're along for the ride...

THE RETURN OF DR. JERRY GRAHAM
BY: A. NONYMOUS

As a longtime fan of southwestern wrestling, it was good to see Dr. Jerry Graham return to action among Independants, following his disasterous Mid-1980's attempt to return to the WWF as a manager, an action which blew up in his face. Returning and living under reportedly less than desireable conditions, Graham, who has a reputation as a hard-drinking, hard-living troublemaker throughout his career, seemed bent on self-destruction. Then, after showing up to watch an independent card in California, he was given a break by these Indie promoters. While Graham owns up to 51 years, 70 seems more like an accurate figure, which in itself is amazing. As one wrestler put it, "As heavy as he has always been, as wild as he's lived and as old as he is, it's a wonder he's still alive, let alone wrestling."

Graham was introduced last year at a show in Maywood, Ca., in which he was part of a 6 man tag team main-event, reportedly so the other wrestlers could carry him. While the Doctor didn't do much, he did steal the show at the end, when rival Alex Knight unscrewed the turnbuckle and hit him in the head with the metal end. Graham, always a notorious "bleeder", was covered with blood, so much it literally soaked the rink mat in pools. No one was crying fake after this show, a throwback to the old days, when wrestling was at least partway credible.

Months later, Graham received a rematch with Alex Knight in Hollywood. The bout went only six minutes or so, wtih Graham actually managing to get heat from the crowd, using such simple routines as eye gouges, hair pulls, and chokeholds. The end came when Graham was thrown into the turnbuckle and Knight was about to win. California locals Larry Ludden, Johnny Legend, and Arizona import, The Time Traveler, acting as manager for Graham, ran into the ring. As these men attacked Knight and reportedly "hospitalized" him, causing him to miss the upcoming Maywood show, a "save" was made by Scott Cole and another Arizona import, Thrillseeker Terry Zeller. Notables in the audience from times past, by the way, included Johnny Mann (a manager in the southwest, who worked with Chris Colt, Ron Dupree and Apache Gringo in the early 1970's), and Tom Burke of Global Wrestling. There were also a number of injuries that night. Graham had busted blood vessels in the eye, where accidently thumbed, the Time Traveler racked up his arm, and Ludden cut himself not on the ring work, but on a blockade screen when going back to the dressing room.

Prior to this, it had been an interesting evening, with Burke doing a long video interview with Graham, plus a near fight, a practical joke which backfired, when Burke introduced fellow fanzine writer, Kurt Brown, to The Time Travaler (formerly Mad Dog Marcial Bovee) as "Dave Meltzer." Bovee, not knowing what Meltzer looked like, believed it, and a loud shouting bout took place, while everyone in the know started laughing including Graham. Graham may have been the one who initiated the idea, as his reputation for practical jokes has run parrallel with his reputation for trouble and he knew of Bovee's dislike for Meltzer. (Meltzer had been critical of him in print in spite of only seeing him doing jobs on some WWF TV tapings, and making, what Bovee felt was a highly unfair judgement of his abilities).

Anyway, the aforementioned antics paved the way for the next Maywood show, again a 6 man tag team event, which offered the villains, Graham, Ludden, and Steve Dalton, against Thrillseeker, Scott Cole, and Cowboy Calhoun, a show captured on local cable tv and now supposedly circulating on tape trade. The bout proved to be wild, with Johnny Legend being "suspended" and announcing that the Time Traveler had stacked the deck with a heel- biased referee (The International Playboy). The villains of course won, this time with The Thrillseeker being bloodied, but afterward, Legned and The Time Traveler got slapped around. The latter was bounced around like a pinball as the good guys took turns punching him, then he lost his pants in a high spot for the night. (Prior to this, a celebrity tennis match had been set for the wrestlers. The Time Traveler attacked Thrillseeker, was "arrested" (it looked good, policemen took him off in handcuffs, a carefully contrived work as the cops and the manager were all members of the masonic fraternity and thus worked the stint together). It helped draw back the crowd for the show that evening.

In this bout, Graham saw much more action than expected, though obviously old and slow. It's amazing to see he can even do this, period. In a post bout interview, he and other villains gave a long interview and Graham sounded as good as he did 30 years ago. Again, though, he is only a shell of what he once was, but it was great to see him back.

And after the show? One of the wrestlers brought Graham a bottle of Scotch, which got him going. He reportedly got good and drunk, and caused quite a ruckus. The whole story from this point is left best out of print, but let's just say he again added to his reputation as a wild man, indicating on even this angle, the legacy of the Good Doctor will continue.

WRESTLING- THEN & NOW is published monthly and is copyright 1992 by Evan Ginzburg. Subscriptions are $15/yr or $7.50/6 months. Single sample issues are $1.25, All back issues are available at $1.25 each. Overseas add $1 per issue and make all payments in U.S. funds. Views expressed by guest columnists in WT&N may not necessarily be shared by the editor. All checks should be made out to Evan Ginzburg. All letters to WT&N may be printed unless writer expressly requests otherwise. WT&N: PO Box 471/Oakland Gardens Station/Flushing, NY 11364. Back issues packages are available-

BOOK REVIEW

BY

DON G. SMITH

Wrestling to Rasslin': Ancient Sport to American Spectacle

by Gerald W. Morton and George O' Brien.

Bowling Green State University Popular Press. (1985)

169 pages.

Fans know that when serious books about professional wrestling appear, they quickly disappear and become collector's items. While there have been few serious books on the subject of pro wrestling, *Wrestling to Rasslin'* is certainly the best that I have seen. First of all, the authors are scholars. Morton is a member of the English Department at Auburn University at Montgomery, and O'Brien is a professor of German and Latin in the Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Together they deliver a highly readable analysis of wrestling as popular culture. Tracing the evolution of wrestling from its origins as one of the world's oldest sports to its current status as dramatic, "trashy" entertainment," the book examines the reasons for wrestling's popularity, particularly among its traditional audience - the lower classes. The main issue the authors address is "What is this phenomenon of professional wrestling and why has its popularity become such that in 1985 more people will attend a professional wrestling match than will witness a professional baseball game?"

Chapter One is a very informative history of the sport from ancient Greece to the days when it evolved into an exhibition - and beyond. Among the personalities involved are William Muldoon, P. T. Barnum, Thomas Edison, Great Gama,Frank Gotch, George Hackenschmidt, and many others.

Chapter Two addresses pro wrestling in the era of television. The authors examine the business structure of pro wrestling with special attention to those on the inside who keep it alive.

Chapter Three "deals with the parallels between professional wrestling and the various theatrical traditions [the morality play, allegory, Noh Drama, and classical theatre] from which it draws:" The authors make a strong case that these parallels are not accidental but rather "an inherent part of the orchestration of the game." Scenarios are studied which involve Tommy Rich, Dusty Rhodes, the Great Kabuki, The Freebirds, Gordon Solie, Harley Race, and many others.

Chapter Four examines the participants themselves. Here we get an insightful discussion about why the various hero and villain personas are employed and why they work. Of particular interest here are the examinations of gimmicks and angles involving the likes of Boris Malenko, Abdullah the Butcher, Stan Hansen, Ric Flair, The Freebirds, Killer Karl Kox, Junkyard Dog, Ole Anderson, Roddy Piper, and many others. In this chapter we also get an analysis of what we might consider wrestling's dark underside of racial and ethnic stereotyping.

Chapter Five examines pro wrestling as an American ritual. Here, the authors provide sociological insight into the American personality and how wrestling functions as "the ritual of America."

Even fans who have followed wrestling for decades and who read the sheets religiously will find approaches in this book which will aid them in a better understanding and appreciation of what wrestling is. I found the insights into fan psychology particularly entertaining and thought provoking. Also of appeal are the scholarly notes that accompany each chapter. The careful reader will find there a number of other sources that promise to be of interest. While some may find it disconcerting to find Dusty Rhodes and Hulk Hogan on the same pages with Aristotle, Shakespeare, Schopenhauer, and John Milton, most fans will find this book well worth the money. I close with some words from the authors:

"The material in this book is generally descriptive rather than critical. Our concern has been to provide a foundation on which future discussions of professional wrestling can rest solidly. Ours is not, therefore, a definitive study, nor was it intended to be. Rather, we hope that the work will finally draw attention to this very interesting manifestation of popular culture and motivate critical research into its nature."

Readers may get a hard cover edition for $19.95 + postage or a soft cover edition for $9.95 + postage. Write to Popular Press, Popular Culture Center, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403.

WRESTLING TIME MACHINE

Ruffians Rule Ring

By EVAN GINZBURG

Professional wrestling is made great by its colorful and malicious villains. Every month the fans flock to see these baddies take their lumps. The top five grapplers are saluted and described in this article. Only wrestlers who are in or have been in the World-Wide Wrestling Federation have been considered.

Every wrestling fan gets a kick out of George "The Animal" Steele's insane antics, as he munches turnbuckles on a regular basis. He has taken the number five spot in this rating. Steele loses more matches than he wins, usually on a disqualification or some other technicality, but he always puts on a remarkable show. He lost to the best of them, but not before he had uses every dirty tactic and foreign object in existence. It's always a one or two turnbuckle match when "The Animal" is in town, so hats off to George Steele, one of the few grapplers to give wrestling fans their money's worth.

A villain with a great gimmick, Ernie "The Cat" Ladd captures the number four spot in this rating. He comes into a territory as a hero, later attacks his partner (remember Bob Ellis and Dusty Rhodes?) and then turns bad. Ladd is another great showman, often sporting a cigar in the ring, and acting quite abusive. Besides this he happens to be a formidable athlete, and is one of the few men who has given "Andre The Giant" any sort of difficulty. Ladd is the top black wrestler in the world and a credit to wrestling villiandom.

Unparalled in obnoxious behavior, Ken Patera garners more fan hatred than almost anyone in recent memory, giving him third position. Anytime he receives punishment in a match, which isn't too frequently, the fans go wild. Patera is a former Olympic superstar, who would probably be an excellent scientific wrestler if he so desired. Presently, after a year-and-a-half in the W.W.W.F., he has once again climbed to the status of number one challenger. In short, Ken Patera is a class act.

Ivan Koloff deserves the runner up spot. This incredibly strong individual took the title away from Bruno Sammartino in 1971, and came back to challenge him again in 1975, in some of the most exciting bouts of all time. He fought Sammartino in Madison Square Garden's first steel cage match. Although he lost, this match helped him gain his place in the fan's memories. He is not as colorful as the last few mentioned, he takes and dishes out punishment with the best of them. Koloff is tough, and hopefully will return to the arena soon to rid us of our champion, Bob Backlund.

Superstar Billy Graham, the wrestling champion for ten months, is my top pick. During his reign, he engaged in classic confrontations with Sammartino, Dusty Rodhes, and Mil Mascaras. He was also the most travelled champion of our time, defending the belt against heroes and villians alike. Unparalled in color and charisma, his presence in any arena generates incredible excitement. He can best be described in his own words as "the man-of-the-hour man-with-the-power."

In choosing the top five villains, it is regretable that other deserving meanies were left out. However, no one can dismiss the qualifications of the titans mentioned above. They are all mean, exciting, and a great deal of fun.

INTERVIEW WITH LOU PEREZ

BY: BILLIE JESSIE

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Tampa, Florida.

Q: What type of amateur wrestling background do you have?

A: Well, I wrestled in high school and was in the 173-174 class. I lettered in football and amateur wrestling and had quite a few scholarships to go other places and took one to the University of Michigan. In fact, that's where I became friends with Rick and Scott Steiner, who are phenomenal athletes whether it's amateur or professional. They are wonderful all the way around. After I left the University of Michigan and came back down to Florida, I was still hem-hawing around with the idea of whether I wanted to become a professional wrestler or not so I played some amateur football but never really go satisfied with anything. Then a person by the name of Larry Malenko kinda got me started in the idea of professional wrestling. Of course, I had seen and watched Al grow with it. He came out of high school and within 2 or 3 years, he was in the professional end of it and excel and go from country to country so I said, 'Why not?'. Larry helped me out in the beginning and then I went right in with Steve Keirn and Mike Graham. They kind of put the finishing touches on it.

Q: Who were you trained by?

A: Actually, I was trained by the Great Malenko and Karl Gotch and they trained Al, also. My first job, as far as professional wrestling, was with an organization down in Miami, Florida called Global, which consisted of Bob Roop and Gordon Solie and others. When I was toying with the idea of becoming a professional wrestler, Steve Keirn, who was a friend of mine, gave me every negative aspect there ever was. He just went right down the line and said things like you spend a lot of time on the road, you don't get to see your family much but he was very honest with me. But, it still didn't deter me from wanting to learn. Like I said, I was with Global for about 2 or 3 months when Steve called me and said I want you to work for Championship Wrestling of Florida. And, having been in the sport for only a couple of years, Steve and Mike were very helpful in my career and put the polishing finishes on me.

Q: Who had the strongest influence on you?

A: I would say Al Perez.

Q: How long have you been wrestling?

A: I'm going into my 5th year, now.

Q: How do you feel about the independent promotions compared to the major leagues?

A: Of course, the major leagues always put pressure on the independents and the reason why is because they have so much tv time. A backdrop is a backdrop, a hiptoss is a hiptoss whether you do it in the WWF or in an independent organization. Although, when you do one in the WWF, you get paid a whole lot more than when you do one in an independent promotion. I'm not trying to take anything away from Vince McMahon. He's a television genius, covered every cable network, syndicated and ppv. I think there was a study done here in my area and it was found that if you have a satellite dish in Tampa, you can watch 72 hours of professional wrestling every week. Florida used to be the hotbed of professional wrestling, when I was growing up.

Q: What is the single accomplishment you are most proud of?

A: It would have to be the night I went to a 30 minute draw with Ric Flair.

Q: Have you wrestled under another name?

A: No.

Q: Have you wrestled tag team as well as single matches?

A: Yes, I have. In fact, I've tagged with Al a couple of times. Lately I've been tagging with Allen Iron Eagle.

Q: What wrestler do you admire the most?

A: Well, it would be a toss between Bobby Eaton and Ric Flair.

Q: Have you had any serious injuries during your career?

A: I've had a bad knee injury where I damaged the ligaments, took a real bad lower back injury in Jamaica. Other than that, its' mostly been the regular bumps and bruises.

Q: What are some of the titles you have held?

A: I've held the Worlds Light Hvt title, World TV title, the Florida tag team title, the Florida Hvt title and the US tag team titles.

Q: What advise would you give to a young wrestler just beginning in the sport?

A: Well, there's a lot of guys that are given things that they don't deserve. In other words, years ago, when I started wrestling, you didn't send a picture, pick up the phone and call the NCW or WWF until you had been in the sport at least 4 or 5 years. Nowadays, there are guys getting in the NCW and WWF who have a hard time lacing their boots and it shows on television. It's almost become like a training camp...if you can't work, you can get in the major organizations. I think it's got to turn back to the ability to be able to work. Learn how to work and become a very smooth, mechanical, realistic worker. Forget about the flamboyancy, the costume wear and who you want to portray because somewhere in the near future, the gimmicks has to stop and real wrestling has to start again. Everybody is known as a comic strip charact...no real names, anymore. It has to turn back to the days when there was Jack Brisco, Dory Funk, Eddie Graham, Mike Graham, Steve Keirn, Ric Flair. People need people as names. People like Jake 'The Snake' Roberts, the Ultimate Warrior, Johnny B. Badd, P.N. News. People don't know what these wrestlers are all about. All they know is Johnny B. Badd looks like Little Richard, P.N. can rap and Van Hammer comes out looking sort of like a rock and roll singer. You know, what is he? A singer or wrestler? There's just a never-ending battle of gimmicks that has to come to a halt somewhere and get back in the ring where people can actually wrestle.

Q: What promotions have you worked for?

A: I have worked for Florida Championship Wrestling, WWC, NWA, Global Wrestling, ICWA run by James Manley in Florida and several independent promotions.

Q: Tell us something about your educational background?

A: I graduated from high school, I have an MBA in Business from the University of Michigan, then I studied Physical Therapy here in Florida. Actually, I went from being a physical therapist right into wrestling.

Q: Do you have a workout schedule?

A: A good friend of mine, Lex Luger has sort of become my coach. I've known Lex a long long time and he's changed things around for me and has helped me out tremendously. He's gotten me into the gym 4-5 times a week and spend about 2 hrs each day. It's help me put size on and get back up to 225-230 mark where I need to be.

Q: Do you remember your debut match?

A: Yes, I do. My very first match was in Tampa, Fl, in May 1987, in a big recreation center against a kid by the name of Jumbo Beretta.

Q: What is your strongest point, as a wrestler?

A: My collegiate background.

Q: Who has been your toughest opponent?

A: My toughest opponent could go anywhere from Ric Flair to Arn Anderson to Rick Rude. The largest opponent I've faced was Sid Vicious.

Q: Do you feel that wrestling will ever reach the point of having only one world champion?

A: Well, it would be nice if someway we could get some kind of unification and recognize one champion as THE champion and leave it at that. But, I don't think it will happen because Flair and Hogan draws too much money. So, I think it's always going to stay 'company.'

Q: Have you wrestled overseas?

A: Yes, I have. I've wrestled in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Nassau, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Honduras, Costa Rica and the Cayman Islands. I'm scheduled to go to Japan in September

Q: What wrestlers did you admire while growing up?

A: I really enjoyed watching guys like Steve Keirn, Mike Graham, Jack Brisco, Don Muraco, when he first started down here in Florida. Guys like that really made wrestling proud. They had the flair but they also had the wrestling ability.

Q: Did you pattern your style of wrestling after anyone?

A: I don't think you really can. We have a couple of guys here in Florida who think they're the Road Warriors. You can't do that. You have to be yourself and what you are most comfortable with. The Road Warriors didn't pattern themselves after anybody. They created their own style and I think that's what we all have to do.

Q: Some wrestlers feel that the State Athletic Commission is a great help to the sport. What are your feeling about it?

A: Well, yeah, it would be nice, if you got in the ring and something happened to you to have medical insurance or coverage to help take care of you. But, let's face facts...there's not many idiots in the world that would jump up in a ring and wrestle. That's probably one of the main reasons that I stay in it...because it's very very unique. I remember when I started off in school, there must have been 25 guys and the one thing that I remember deterred the guys from coming back was the suplex. All of a sudden, the number went from 25 to 3. If you're not working for the WCW or the WWF, where if something did happen to you, they'd pay for it, then you work independent. The independents don't have the money to pay the state regulations. It's bad enough running a promotion...you got to have the insurance, the permits, rent the buildings, make posters and you don't know if you're going to draw or not. So, if anything, regulate the big boys. I know you can't say regulate them and not the independent guys. But I think that everyone that is a professional wrestler and has stepped in the ring know the consequences, they know what can possibly happen at any given time.

Q: What has been the greatest moment in your career?

A: I would say it was when I won the World Light Heavyweight title about two years ago from a gentleman by the name of Gigilo Jim Backlund. That was a real major step for me.

Q: What do you think it takes to be a winner?

A: A lot of heart and a lot of determination.

Q: Are there any holds or moves that you feel should be barred from the sport?

A: I think there are a lot of people who should be barred from wrestling..HA..HA. The holds are okay, it's the idiots that are trying to do them...No, seriously, years ago, they had a lot of pretty hellecious holds but right now it's pretty open and I think I've had about everything thrown at me that could possibly be done to someone. Backdropped over the top rope, the sleeper, you name it. If it's a professional move and is within the rules of professional wrestling, I think it's something you have to face, as a professional wrestler.

Q: Who do you think is the top wrestler today?

A: I'd say for the mans' ability, for his years in the ring, I would have to say Ric Flair. He has proven that he can do anything, be anywhere and still be on top. I think the WCW made a real big mistake when they let Ric get away. He is the last of the basic wrestlers. He was in the era of the Briscos, the Funks, the Andersons, the Grahams. That was the era where they really wrestled. Nowadays, it's how well you look and dress.

Q: What is your view on cable tv and ppvs'?

A: I think if you have a ppv as well as this last Wrestlemania...it was put together very very well. Of course, that's only my opinion. But, if you're going to have something that good, by all means, go for it and put it on ppv. But, then on the other hand, you have those guys who are not in business anymore, I think it was the WWF. I remember when they tried to run a ppv down here at the Manatee Civic Center and they had maybe 200 people show up. Once again, I think ppv is great for the people who know how to pull it off and if the independents have enough backing and put it on cable, it gives them an opportunity to have exposure also.

Q: What is your feelings about the high rate of liquor and drug abuse in sports today?

A: Well, you know, you see these guys come on tv and they give a speech..."I'm anti-drug, Don't Do Drugs", etc. They need to practice what they preach. I'm on the "Say No To Drugs" committee, here in the state of Florida and I go to the schools and speak to the young people about drugs and encourage them to stay in school. Well, I voluntarily take drug tests for the state of Florida because if I am going into the schools and tell the kids exactly the way it is, I think I should practice what I preach. These guys you see on tv giving the Don't Do Drugs speeches are the very ones you see falling over stone-ass drunk at a bar, when they come to your town. Don't get me wrong...I'm not saying all the guys are like that. They are professional athelets and people look up to them. They are getting paid well because they are professional and they should act accordingly.

Q: Are you in favor of random steroid/drug testing?

A: Well, I say yes but I also say no. The reason I say no is the simple fact that the biggest thing for a professional wrestler is to be a hero for the kids. All these cartoon characters, whomever it may be, that the kids look up to, look like a human anatomy chart. The guy's big, he's got big muscles, he's got this, he's got that, but it's just a cartoon character. But when the kids go to a wrestling match, they go to see their heroes. Hulk Hogan, Lex Luger, Sting. These are the people that the kids look up to. I say "yes" there should be testing but also look what we have put these guys up against. You want the business for the children. Believe me, Vince capitalizes so much on his doll sales, T-shirt sales, etc. and the kids are the ones that buy them. Mom and Dad are right there to fork the dollars out. Well, these guys have to look like what the kids see when they turn on the tv on Sat morning. The cartoons are drawn with hugh muscles, etc. but the kids have no idea what it takes to make a human look that way. So, as a result, they rely on steroids to get the look. You have some guys that are making money because of their body, it's not their working ability and they know that's the reason they're making that kind of money. And, of course, they're going to do whatever they have to keep the big money and their jobs.

Q: What has been your most embarrasing moment?

A: When I first started in the business, I wore black tights, like my cousin. They call them underbriefs and then the tights go on top. Anyway, after being on the road for a few days, I went to the arena and instead of packing both pair, I had brought 2 sets of underbriefs and no tights so I had to wrestle that night in my underbriefs.

Q: Where are you wrestling now?

A: Right now, I'm wrestling in the state of Florida but I mainly do the islands with the International Wrestling League.

Q: What are your immediate plans?

A: In the Cayman Islands, Hondoras, Jamaica, Costa Rica and Nassau.

Q: Aside from wrestling, what are you hobbies and interests?

A: I love working out, jet-skiing, boating. These things really relax me.

Q: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

A: No, I'm the only one.

Q: Do you have any other relatives who are involved in wrestling?

A: Just my cousin, Al Perez.

Q: What type of music do you like?

A: I really enjoy country and western music. It keeps me calm. When I'm working out I enjoy some rock and roll but there's just nothing like Garth Brooks, Clint Black, Reba McIntyre.

Q: What is your height and weight?

A: I am 6' and weigh 225-30.

Q: How old are you?

A: 32

Q: What is your fav food?

A: I would say pasta and chicken.

Q: When is your birthday?

A: November 25, 1959.

Q: I hate to break the hearts of more young ladies, but I understand you were recently married?

A: Yes, my wifes' name is Lisa. We have been married only 5 months now. In fact, we were married on November 16. Lisa is not only my wife but she's my best friend.

Q: Do you have children?

A: No, not yet, but we're trying.

Q: What is you finishing move?

A: I use the frankensteiner. Scott taught it to me so I figured I'd use it.

Q: What is your fav tv show?

A: Bill Cosby Show.

Q: What is your fav color?

A: Blue.

Q: In light of the sexual harassment allegations brought against the WWF, what is your opinion on the matter?

A: You know, I believe everything that was said and the reason I say that is because I watched Vince McMahon on the Donohue Show and facing the firing squad was the smartest thing Vince could have done. Everytime someone tries to run and hide it makes it look twice as bad. I would not put it past them to promise some young, good-looking kid a better opportunity in wrestling if they would come to his room and talk about some sexual favors. Here we are portraying to be rough, tough individuals. We get in the ring, we beat people, we sweat, we get beat up, hit with chairs, fall 8-10 feet, nothing seems to hurt us

LOU PEREZ CONTINUED

but we are kissing and having sex with men. Come on!

Q: Lou, it was such a pleasure speaking with you and thank you so much for your time and the interview. Now the wrestling fans can learn more about the handsome, latin, Lou Perez and the very best of luck to you.

A: The pleasure was all mine, Billie.

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10 PAGES DEVOTED TO THIS URGENT TOPIC- DON'T MISS IT! TELL A FRIEND!

MARILYN AND ME

Chapter One

by Vic Stanley

Since wrestling is pretty much at a low ebb these days, and many have pointed out that I have already done more than my fair share of griping about it, I thought I would tell you all about something nice that happened to me because of it.

This story is not exactly about wrestling, but it is about two friends who became acquainted because of wrestling. It is also the story of a love affair in full bloom - so dear to my heart that I shed a tear of joy every time I think about it. It's the sentimental tale of Marilyn Rundle and me, and our much anticipated meeting in Chicago. Although she had experienced what she thought was "The Real Thing" many times in her life, I knew it was up to me to open her eyes at last to the meaning of true bliss. Upon delivering what I had long promised and even boasted about, all she could do was thank me repeatedly. Her mother thanked me, too. Once my mission was completed, I was exhausted, but I was also pretty proud of myself. For on that fateful day in late June, Marilyn and her mother had at last known the sensual joys and utter satisfaction of....the Chicago Hot Dog!

Marilyn, accompanied by her mother, was in town to visit Lisa, her daughter. We had anxiously planned for several weeks to meet at last, and I volunteered to act as their tour guide for a day. Everything, including the usually temperamental weather and the otherwise godawful Chicago traffic cooperated with us. Our drive down scenic Lakeshore Drive was beautiful, as anyone who is familiar with the Windy City already knows. Little did I know of the stamina I would have to draw upon to keep up with these two energetic women. A hardy breed - those New Yorkers.

Our first stop was the Field Museum of Natural History. Much to my chagrin, tens of thousands of hippie-like creatures were gathered in the immediate area for 2 days of marathon Grateful Dead concerts at the adjacent Soldier Field. In my youth, I was all for the drugs and promiscuity but I always hated those lazy, dirty, barefooted hippies. This was my worst nightmare. We were instantly transported back to 1969 amidst an onslaught of sandals, ponytails, incense and $1.00 cheese sandwiches grilled on rusty minivan radiators. The flood of tie dyed clothing was like an explosion of clown vomit. They had already claimed all the choice parking spots within a 200 yard radius, so by the time we even reached the museum, I was winded - but I couldn't let the girls know. Once inside, I was ready to demonstrate my intimate knowledge of all the museum exhibits, but they had rearranged everything since I was there last, so after a while it was "Hmmm...what haven't we seen yet? Let's go look at the putrefied mummies!" By the way, for some reason, the Dead Heads seemed fascinated by the hallucinogenic plant exhibit.

To be continued

WORLD MAT TITLE CLAIMED BY MANY

New York Refused to Recognize a Pro Champion—U. S. Won One Olympic Crown.

The situation in wrestling, almost serene a year ago, was covered with confusion, so far as the world heavyweight title was concerned, in 1936. Claimants to the crown, which generally was regarded as in the sole possession of Dan O'Mahoney when the year was young, sprang up profusely, and as the months rolled by there was hardly a geographical location that did not have its "world champion."

The trouble started with the defeat of O'Mahoney at the hands of Dick Shikat last March. Shikat threw the Irishman and promptly claimed the title. He risked it against Ali Baba, and lost, and the latter held himself out as champion.

Then Ali Baba was thrown by Dave Levin, who, naturally, claimed the crown. His pretensions were shattered when Dean Detton pinned him to the canvas.

The situation became so muddled that the New York State Athletic Commission washed its hands of championship recognition and declared that, so far as it was concerned, the world heavyweight wrestling title was non-existent.

The fact that a "champion" should meet defeat seemed to mean little. O'Mahoney, for instance, after having lost to Shikat, continued to bill himself as the titleholder, and risked his claim regularly, win or lose. Among those to defeat him and claim the toga was Yvon Robert, who in turn was vanquished by Cliff Olsen.

That Olsen had conquered Robert meant nothing to the latter, who still calls himself champion, a title that Olsen, naturally, considers his own.

Wrestling had a prominent place in the Olympic games, both catch-as-catch-can and Graeco-Roman matches being staged. The United States garnered one championship in the catch-as-catch-can, but drew a blank in the Graeco-Roman. Frank Lewis was the sole American grappler to gain a title, winning the welterweight championship.

The Oklahoma Aggies won six individual crowns and the team championship in the National A. A. U. tournament, while Penn State, with three individual victories, took the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association's team honors.

12/27/36

RINGWORDS EAST by Stephen Meyerson 7/25/92

How does WCW thank the 75,000 or so diehards who purchased the Beach Brawl? 1) By making them wait until the next night (Main Event) to find out the "First Lady of WCW." 2) By suckering some of them into wasting 99¢ on a meaningless "vote" for Missy or Madusa. Smells like cow chips to me.

NAWA on Sports Channel: Back to back wrestling block with IWCCW...Hercules, Lightning Kid, Volkoff, Lombardi were biggest names...Tommy Dreamer wears pink but is greener than grass. Dreamer over Metal Maniac with sleeper variation; Maniac was back on his feet before Dreamer could wake him. Dreamer's moves are so telegraphed he should be called Morse Code...Hercules in 1992--WWF, WCW, NAWA...You Be/UB/Hubie Marks managed Hercules at the tapings...Announcer Rich Mancuso called Johnny Rodz legendary. Veteran WWWF and Indy wrestler? Yes. Runs a reputable wrestling school? Yes. Legendary? Only in Mancuso's mind!

Bill Clinton, Ron Brown and other Democrat power brokers should change the name of their party. There's nothing democratic about prohibiting the anti abortion governor of Pennsylvania, Robert Casey, from speaking at the convention. I'm pro choice but anti shutting anybody up.

Around the Ring: A T shirt for the rap band 3rd Bass reads, "Derelicts of Dialect"...Dave Meltzer knew who the Silver Kings were and Jim Ross didn't...People who have too much time have no respect for yours...A popular T shirt in gentrifying areas of NYC reads, "Die Yuppie Scum"...Why would any New Yorker travel abroad when the whole world is just a subway ride to Queens away?

History Then & Now: It's hard relating to women when you're the man Benjamin Franklin was thinking of when he said, "He who loves himself shall have no rivals"...Could George Washington's "Father of Our Country" status have anything to do with his dying from syphilis?...Have you seen the shape of the Washington Monument? It's quite an erection.

Are you eager to see Hogan squash a Memphis jobber? Do you think about reverse (perverse) reincarnation where you're watching the lions squash the christians (not Laettner) in the world's 1st cage matches? Are Goliath and Gulliver your fictional favorites? If you answer yes to any of the above questions, you must be a fan of the olympic basketball "dream team." The U.S. can never avenge past defeats against the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia since both have split into more than 1 team. I see nothing wrong with the NBA getting a major push over the rest of the world. Just don't ask me to watch, talk about, care about, or even think about the upcoming series of squashes. If you insist on waving the flag as the "dream team" reaches 100 points in the 1st half, keep it the hell outta my face.

You can judge a person's character by observing how he or she behaves on lines, in traffic, and in laundry rooms.

Graduation Day: At the May 17 graduation at Franklin and Marshall, Supreme Court Justice Blackman spoke about the need for college grads to have appropriate values and heroes instead of focusing on the $ sign. Several speakers later, the senior class president told his classmates they should get together in a few years after each made his or her first million.

Recent call from a pay phone in New York's "fashionable" World Trade Center: 1) I barely heard the person I called due to a semi-working phone. 2) I picked up gum on my sleeve. 3) My feet were wet from a puddle on the lobby floor.

SIGNS OF AGING: 1) Live music sounds too loud. You worry about hearing loss if you're near a speaker. 2) You complain about your neighbor's noise rather than the other way around. 3) You're the only person not proofed at a college hangout.

Personal ad in the March 15 NY Daily News: "Need a girl to style and profile. Whoooo!"

Sign on the wall: "It's better to be silent and thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt."

Does any promotion still announce the time of the matches?

Dr. Hugh B. Normal claims to have a cure for wrestling burnout: 1) Arrange with customs to confiscate incoming tapes from Japan. 2) Cancel all newsletter subscriptions. 3) Insist that pay per view be removed from your cable package. In extreme cases, have cable banned from the home. 4) Have yourself electronically monitored to prevent you from leaving home when wrestling is in town. 5) Dr. Normal's office will eavesdrop on your phone conversations. If caught talking about wrestling, Dr. Normal will do a run in at your home and confiscate your phone. If you try to KayFabe Dr. Normal with inside terms, you will be caught by his dedicated staff which includes reformed newsletter readers. 6) Disregard items 1-5. It's 6:05 pm on Saturday and WCW is on.

I was sent a Neilson diary for a week in November. During that week, I recorded ½ hour of GWF and no other wrestling. Before getting cable in 1991, I had access to 3 hours of wrestling a week. With cable, I can watch more than 20 hours a week. I find myself watching less wrestling now than ever before--not only because I'm losing interest in televised wrestling, but mainly because of competition from so many competing channels.

Dated But Relevant: In Pro Wrestling Torch #141, Mark Madden wrote a negative article about the Sammartino family. In the November 1991 issue of Wrestling Chatterbox, there were 2 rebuttals. I wish the 2 rebuttals had appeared in Torch or that Chatterbox had asked Torch for permission to reprint the Madden article alongside the rebuttals. Unless you read both publications, you only got 1 side of the story.

Will the large influx of immigrants into New York City and other areas be attracted to wrestling as previous immigrants were? Have we as a nation become too sensitive, too worldly and too sensible to be turned on by wrestling on a mass basis?

Public Enemy and Anthrax were on tour together. Mideast peace talks may resume. WCW and WWF are both working with Japanese promotions. Is there even a slight chance that WCW and WWF could combine for a joint pay per view or share talent or do something other than destroy or ignore each other? Or is my question completely unrealistic and naive?

Planned Parenthood has issued a position paper in favor of matches involving Master Blaster, Bushwackers, Zhukov, Volkoff, Andre, Baba and Duggan.

An editor must carefully select his staff to avoid a staff infection.

Will Rogers never met a man he didn't like. I've never met a Battle Royal or War Games I did.

After being unemployed or underemployed for several months, it's nice reading the want ads without having to apply.

After observing for several years how Vince books his female talent, my guess is that he reads romance novels and Cinderella...Only Vince could waste a talented wrestler like Sheri Martel in an evil witch's costume...Who else but Junior would book cartoon characters like Sapphire and Elizabeth above the Jumping Bomb Angels?...Only in America would Sheri and Madusa not be wrestling each other.

Why did WCW fail to follow up on the excellent, stiff Japanese ladies tag team match at the February 1991 Phoenix pay per view? If WCW did use Japanese women, would Jim Ross be able to identify them?

MORE IS LESS: Billy Bragg on tour with a band reminds me of Bob Dylan going electric at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival.

At a music store, I asked the clerk if she had any Billy Bragg tapes in stock. She looked at me with contempt and said (about Bragg), "pretentious folkie." I didn't care what she thought of Billy Bragg; I just wanted to know if his music was available.

Why does Billboard list the Top Ten albums when the only things sold in stores are cassettes and CDs?

Bands appearing in New York: Overkill, Biohazard, Life of Agony, Type-O-Negative, Scatterbrain, Sheer Terror, Burn Icemen, Marauder, Breakdown, Mentally Dumb, Sub Zero, Primal Scream, Lethal Boyz, Gutterboy, I Kill Me, Acid Zone, Shock Council, Lubricated Goat, D-Xtreme, Poster Children, Church of the Propagandists.

Wrestling Perspective editors Dave Skolnick and Paul MacArthur have shown us that the phrase "serious wrestling essay" is <u>not</u> an oxymoron.

MY FIRST MATCH
BY: JEFF COHEN (EDITOR FANTASY FEDERATION)

My first wrestling memory is the mid-70's when I lived in New Jersey. I was flipping around and came to a wild brawl. My mother came in and promptly shut it off. I was about 12. This was why I didn't get into wrestling until I was about 19.

Although Vince McMahon has been blamed for everything and the kitchen sink, the explosion of 1984-5 really got me involved. I had three friends who all thought that Roddy Piper was the greatest and their enthusiasm hooked me. I even went to a college costume party as Sgt. Slaughter and fought an Iron Sheik who showed up.

My first live card was at the Meadowlands in Dec., 1984. Hogan vs. John Studd was the main event, but we really went to see the live Piper's Pit. As it turned out, that was the infamous Savatore Bellomo interview which aired on TNT a few weeks later. Hulkamania was running high although I think it was a countout ending to set up an MSG cage match. Twelve people squeezed into two cars to see the card. A tremendous introduction to wrestling. Ironically, eight years later I can remember the pit and parts of the main-event but nothing from the rest of the card. Truly the legacy of Vince.

HISTORY OF CHICAGO WRESTLING BY: RON DOBRATZ
1982 (PART TWO)

In 1982, the AWA rarely shared the Amphitheatre spotlight with the World Wrestling Association as it did in 1981. Wilbur Snyder's long appearnace came when he defeated Tom "Rocky" Stone on February 27. Bobo Brazil regained the WWA title from BlackJack Mulligan, then dropped the championship to Harley Race, but none of them wrestled in Chicago in 1982. Neither Moose Cholak, nor other WWA wrestlers such as Paul Christy, Tim Hampton, Jerry Graham Jr., Bobby Bold Eagle, and El Bracero climbed into the Amphitheatre ring in 1982 as they had previously.

Spike Huber and Wilbur Snyder regained the WWA tag team title from Mike and Pat Kelly, then lost it to Sheik Ali Hassan (Jack Cougar) and Abdullah the Great. Eventually the WWA tag team belts ended up in the hands of Spike Huber and Steve Regal, the only WWA tag team to appear during 1982. On August 21, Huber and Regal lost to Rick Martel and Tito Santana.

Tito Santana wrestled Nick Bockwinkel in the AWA champion's first Chi. title defenses after regaining his crown from Wanz. The two wrestlers had their November 20th match ruled a "no contest", but Bockwinkel won their fast-paced rematch on December 18.

Unlike the other WWA and AWA titleholders, Jim Brunzell & Greg Gagne managed to hold onto their championship all year. They wrestled as a tag team on six of the eleven Amphitheatre shows. Neither Greg, nor Jim, appeared on the year's first card, but Brad Rheingans teamed with Jim for the February 27th tag bout which was won by Jerry Blackwell & Sheik Adnan El Kaissey.

The AWA tag team champions wrestled Blackwell & Kaissey on March 20, in a title match marked by controversy, the referee getting knocked out, Blackwell pinning Brunzell, and an official verdict which declared the title held up pending a rematch. The rematch on April 24 ended in a "no contest", but Gagne & Brunzell emerged victorious in their third battle on May 22.

There was even more controversy when Brunzell and Gagne defended their title against Ken Patera and Bobby Duncum on July 24. The confusion resulted from having all four wrestlers in the ring at once. Greg fell to the mat a victim of several elbow drops and was pinned. Bobby Heenan jumped into the ring to celebrate his "Black and Blue Express" becoming the new tag team champions, but the referee ruled that Brunzell should have been the legal man in the ring, thus the wrong wrestler had been pinned, therefore the match should continue. Greg got up and dropkicked Duncum into Heenan, while Brunzell pinned Patera with a "sunset flip".

The High Flyers successfully defended their title against former champiopns, Ray Stevens & Pat Patterson on August 21, and Brad Rheingans & Rick Martel on October 9.

There were 20 tag team matches on the 11 1982 cards. Five shows had two tag bouts, five had one, and on August 21, all five bouts were of the tag team variety. Two of the twenty tag matches featured midgets. On May 22, Tiny Tim & Chief Lone Eagle beat Billy the Kid & Little Tokyo, and on November 20, they beat Little Tokyo & Wee Willie.

Jerry Blackwell and the oil-rich Sheik Adnan El Kaissey (who was paying the Georgia heavyweight to help him attain his goal of the AWA tag team title) did not defeat the tag champions, but they did defeat one-half of the "High Flyers" team, Jim Brunzell, on two occasions. Brunzell not only lost when teaming with Brad Rheingans on February 27, but also on November 9, when teamed with Steve Olsonoski. Blackwell & Kaissey beat Buck Zumhofe & Spike Huber on October 9. Blackwell also teamed with Bobby Heenan to defeat Rick Martel & Spike Huber on December 18.

Dick the Bruiser and Larry Hennig roughed up the Sheik & Jerry Blackwell so much on August 21, they deliberately got themselves disqualified. On the previous card, Blackwell resorted to using a foreign object and getting help from Sheik Kaissey in an effort to beat Hulk Hogan. The foreign object made Hulk bleed, but instead of slowing Hogan down, it made him even more uncontrollable and when Kaissey tried coming into the ring, Hulk whipped the big man from Stone Mountain into a jolting collision with his manager.

Ken Patera was awarded a victory over Hulk Hogan by disqualification on October 9. On November 20, Patera defeated Rick Martel, while Ken's tag team partner, Bobby Duncum, was wrestling to a "no contest" with Dick the Bruiser. On the year's final card, Hulk & Bruiser proved to be an awesome combination by handily defeating Duncum & Patera.

The International Amphitheatre was not Baron Von Raschke's favorite place to wrestle in 1982, as the Baron won only once in seven singles bouts. Raschke lost to Sheik Adnan El Kaissey (January 30), Ken Patera (March 20), Bobby Duncum (April 24), Adrian Adonis (October 9), and Jesse Ventura (December 18). The Baron did defeat Bobby Heenan on November 20.

Brad Rheingans beat "Rocky" Stone (January 30), and wrestled to draws with Jacques Goulet (May 22) and Spike Huber (September 11). Buck Zumhofe wrestled to a double count-out with Steve Regal (September 11), and beat Stone (March 20).

In other 1982 matches, Ben DeLeon lost matches to Spike Huber (February 27) and Tom Lintz (November 20). On March 20, Rufus Jones beat Sonny Rogers, while Tito Santana got himself disqualified while battling with Bobby Duncum.

One of Chicago's most popular wrestling personalities, Bearcat Wright, died on August 28, at age 50. George Gadaski, unlike Bearcat Wright, was never a main event wrestler, but nonetheless, "Scrapiron" was an integral part of the AWA. George not only wrestled for them, he served as a referee, and for several years was responsible for transporting and setting up the ring around the circuit. On Dec. 13, Gadaski succumbed to cancer, just 14 months after having wrestled his last bout at the Amphitheatre. Gadaski died at age 52 in St. Croix, Wisconsin. Two other well known former wrestlers also died of cancer in 1982, living out their last days in Hawaii. Cheif Peter Maivia (Fanene Leifi Pita Maivia) died at the age of 45 on June 13; and 62 year old Harok Sakata (Tosh Togo) died on July 29. These deaths seved as a grim reminder that time moves on, and nothing remains the same.

By 1982, the International Amphitheatre was 48 years old, and had featured professional wrestling for 34 years. By 1983, the Amphitheatre closed its doors to professional wrestling, a victim of old age. After Bob Luce promoted two shows at the beginning of the year, the building that had been the site for so much excitement, drama, laughter, heartbreak, and talent faded into oblivion, just as the stockyards located to the west, and the Stockyard Inn to the north did done years before.

Before the Amphitheatre closed its doors for the last time, Chicago fans had the opportunity to see one more all-time great star in action. Jerry Lawler never received national recognition as one of wrestling's best, because he chose to wrestle close to home, but in the Memphis area, Lawler was regarded as "the King". Jerry debuted on Dec. 18, beating Steve Regal, then returned on Jan. 15, 1983 to defeat Tom Stone.

In 1982 Lawler did receive some national media attention because of Andy Kaufman, a night club comedian, who was best known for his role of "Latka" on the television show, "Taxi ". Kaufman regularly parodied professional wrestling, especially on the popular NBC program, "Saturday Night Live". Kaufman then challenged Lawler to a "wrestling match" in Memphis, but to Andy's amazement, Lawler took the match seriously and refused to allow him to "clown" his way through the scenario. Kaufman came away from the match with a trip to the hospital and a neckbrace. As a result he placed a "bounty" on Lawler, willing to pay any wrestler who could do similar damage to Mr. Lawler. Former Olympic weightlifter, Ken Patera, tried to collect the bounty on the Amphitheatre's final show on Feb. 12, but even with the presence of both Kaufman and Heenan at ringside, Patera lost the bout.

Many people learned to hate Jerry Blackwell and his manager, Sheik Adnan El Kaissey, with the same intensity Kaufman had for Lawler. As 1982 ended, Blackwell and Kaissey wrestled Buddy Lane & Brad Rheingans in a television studio bout, and to Blackwell's embarrassment, Rheingans bodyslammed and pinned him to win the first fall. Blackwell and the Sheik were so angry they wrestled out-of-control, and when Rheingans injured his ankle upon being thrown out of the ring, they refused to stop punishing him and his tag partner. They also beat up referee Kenny Jay, who was trying to restrain them.

Greg Gagne was one of several wrestlers who jumped into the ring to try and restore order, but the Sheik stunned Greg by hitting him on the head with a foreign object and Blackwell followed it up by bodyslamming Gagne onto the cement floor and then jumping on him with the full force of his nearly 500 pounds.

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UPCOMING IN EARLY '93- RON DOBRATZ' HISTORY OF CHICAGO WRESTLING CONTINUES! WRITE TO RON AT 11750 GRAYSTONE CIRCLE- ROSCOE IL. 61073 FOR INFO ON PURCHASING HIS CLASSIC 1973 RECORD BOOK & PHOTO ALBUM & OTHER GREAT 1970'S PROJECTS OF HIS- HIGHEST RECOMMENDATION!

****

IRON MIKE EINHORN: DESCRIBED BY MANY AS A TROUBLED LONER
(The Man Who Knows Wrestling Like The Palm Of His Hand)

I went to a great Canadian restaurant last week. Bacon anyway you want it.

I made the bad mistake of once asking Eric Embry for his autograph in the Mid-South Coliseum parking lot. I recieved a "Child of The Damned" stare for my trouble. I'm EMOTIONALLY TRAUMATIZED for life.

Watching Jerry Lawler smash the Moondogs heads against everything in sight got me thinking: If I hit anything that hard, I'm gonna spot-weld to it. He would have hit them with a charred stump if he had one. He hit them so hard their relatives were dizzy.

The holidays are just around the corner...or are they just up the street?

When you get your brain smoked, you get a little wacky.

Evan's new office is on the "D" train.

My nephew's 1/8 Indian and his father is 1/2 drunk.

After spending the holidays with the relatives, I'm ready to enter a family de-tox center.

With stories of sexual harassment and drug abuse in the WWF, saying you're an ex-official of Titan Sports must really stand out on a resume. Come to think of it, the last time I went to the matches the timekeeper was undressing me with his eyes.

Thank you very much, you're beautiful!

MUHAMMAD ALI

A View From the Corner

by Ferdie Pacheco, M.D.
The Fight Doctor

One of the main ingredients of "the Act" was that Clay genuinely loved to "shock and amaze you." Like a kid showing off in front of adults, Clay loved to find an unusual thing to do, to create strange events, to behave in the exact opposite way expected of him. To be irrational, but to be amusing, entertaining. To challenge. To provoke. To irritate. To put himself out on a limb, then saw it off, and still prevail. This was his way to worldwide celebrity.

His first formal thoughts about the synthesis of his persona came after a visit to Gorgeous George in Las Vegas.

Gorgeous George was the most successful wrestler in the country. He dyed his hair a Marilyn Monroe blond; he came into the ring with a dresser, whose job it was to take the curlers out of George's blond hair, comb it out, and spritz it with hair spray, then help George out of his sequined robe and spray him with perfume from a gigantic atomizer—after which George would go out and beat the hell out of his opponent. Clay's eyes were wide as they took in this spectacle. He noted that the place was sold out and that half the people loved Gorgeous George and half hated him.

After the show, a rapt Clay listened as George gave him a lecture on showmanship.

"You gotta have a gimmick, kid. You got your good looks, a great body; they tell me you can fight like a dream, and you can talk even better than you can fight. You've got your act; now you need to polish it. Always dress in white. White robe, trunks, and shoes. Especially white shoes . . . makes you look even faster, and it'll make the purists hate you."

In those days boxers wore black or dark trunks, and definitely black shoes. The perfect role model for a champion was Joe Louis. Humility was a quality much appreciated in American heroes. A champion didn't brag outside the ring, but let his fists speak for him in the ring. A champion was a model of decorum. A champion was circumspect.

"Did you see the crowd out there? Half of 'em want to kiss me, half of 'em want to see me get killed. That is what you want. They all pay ten bucks to see what they want, but the bottom line is asses in the seats at ten bucks a pop.

"Now, you've got a great mouth. Lots of people love your brash, cocky style, and a lot of people will pay to see someone shut your mouth with a leather glove. So, keep on bragging, keep on sassing . . . and always be outrageous."

Cassius Clay was never short on creative originality, so, inspired by the lessons imparted by the flamboyant Gorgeous George, he came up with a gimmick. Clay would predict the round in which he would knock out his opponent. His early opponents were easy, so his predictions were accurate. The press soon picked up on it, and whether he was right or wrong in his predictions, he still got all the ink.

This was outrageous stuff, and it worked wonders when he made it come true. Out of this evolved doggerel rhymes using his opponent's name. "Moore in four," he would cry, and ancient Archie Moore would go down in four rounds. The public ate it up.

NWA/WCW US Tag Team Title — FROM GARY WILL & ROYAL DUNCAN

86/09/28	Ivan Koloff & Krusher Krushchev (Barry Darsow) Defeat Lazeas Jayhawks: Butch Bastel & Bobby Jaggers	Atlanta
86/12/09	Ron Garvin & Barry Windham	Spartanburg
87/03/14	Ivan Koloff & Dick Murdoch	Atlanta
87/04	VACANT Dick Murdoch suspended	
87/05/16	Midnight Express: Bobby Eaton & Stan Lane Defeat Ron Garvin & Barry Windham	Atlanta
88/04/26	Fantastics: Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton	Chattanooga
88/07/10	Midnight Express: Bobby Eaton & Stan Lane [2]	Baltimore
88/09/10	VACANT Midnight Express win World Title	
88/12/07	Fantastics: Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton [2] Defeat Eddie Gilbert & Ron Simmons	Chattanooga
88/12/26	Kevin Sullivan & Steve Williams	Norfolk
89/02/28	Eddie Gilbert & Rick Steiner	Columbia, SC
89/04	BELTS ABANDONED	
90/02/12	Z-Man (Tom Zenk) & Flyin' Brian Pillman Defeat Fabulous Freebirds	Gainesville
90/05/19	Midnight Express: Bobby Eaton & Stan Lane [3]	Washington
90/08/24	Rick Steiner & Scott Steiner	E Rutherford
91/02/20	VACANT Steiners win World Title	
91/05/19	Fabulous Freebirds: Michael Hayes & Jimmy Garvin Defeat Young Pistols: Tracy Smothers & Steve Armstrong	St. Petersburg
91/08/12	Patriots: Todd Champion & Firebreaker Chip	Gainesville
91/11/05	Young Pistols: Tracy Smothers & Steve Armstrong	Gainesville
92/01/14	Ron Simmons & Big Josh (Matt Borne)	Columbus, GA
92/02/17	Taylor-Made Man (Terry Taylor) & Greg Valentine	Rock Hill, SC

Many of my best memories of professional wrestling go all the way back to my childhood. I wasn't even attending live shows at Madison Square Garden, yet--heck, I didn't start doing that till I was almost thirty--but I sure do remember seeing a lot of wrestling on television. Wild Red Berry. Bobby Davis. Gorilla Monsoon (when HE was a "bohemoth"). Announcer Ray Morgan. The night Bruno won the title from Buddy Rogers, making him submit to his backbreaker after Rogers tried to attack him from behind. (Imagine that--a title match from the Garden on free T.V.) We saw all of it, my folks and I, right there on the little black-and-white Zenith in our living room.

Perhaps what I remember most, however, are the wrestling magazines, which my Dad used to get from a friend of his and bring home from work now and then. Even as a kid I was a voracious reader, so I suppose it was because of the articles and "interviews" that I initially liked them so much.

But it was something else entirely--something besides the words they contained, the stories they told--that kept me going back to them for more: what I REALLY liked about them were their pictures. More specifically, the pictures on their covers. Big, full-color photographs--often glossy--of sweaty, grunting wrestlers in action, surrounded by loud, brassy "teasers" designed to leap out at you, catch your eye, make you want to plunk down your money and buy the mag at your newsstand. And, of course, blood--sometimes lots of it. As a kid I didn't know about juicing and all the rest of it--and now, as an adult, juicing happens to be the one aspect of the business I can most live without--but, admittedly, the sometimes overwhelming gore did its part in attracting me to those covers, too.

And there was something else about those covers, something I'm beginning to realize only now. They were, in a way, symbolic of pro wrestling itself: they were BIG. They were flashy. They were cartoonish. I was reading a lot of comic books in those days, too, and I suppose, for me, that's what wrestling mags were: big, brassy comic books for adults.

Now more than ever, of course--with all the comic book characters in the WWF, for example--the wrestling biz looks like one big Saturday morning kids' show, and the covers of the periodicals that follow the sport are only continuing a time-honored tradition by reflecting that.

But now, though--decades removed from those "Wonder Years" when wrestling magazines seemed so exciting, so awfully GROWN-UP--I don't even read them, any more. I might occasionally leaf through an old one if I happen to find it around the house, but that's about all. I've evolved, you see. These days I read the sheets and newsletters and they, of course, have no covers. Not full-color glossy ones, anyway. Hm. From newsstand mag to insider newsletter. You might say I'VE grown up.

Ah, those halcyon days of youthful innocence--but I guess you can't stay young forever, can you?

Stuart Brynien

Brooklyn, N.Y.

DAVID WILLIAMSON'S
CLIPPINGS CORNER

WRESTLING

THURSDAY OCT. 17 - 8:30 P.M.

WORLD'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

INFERNOS

MANAGED BY
J. C. DYKES

—VS—

TERRY FUNK
AND
DORY JR.

★ ★ SPECIAL ATTRACTION ★ ★

MARIO GALENTO VS **J. C. DYKES**

RICKY ROMERO —vs— **LORD PATRICK**

★ ★ ★ ★ GYPSY RULES ★ ★ ★ ★

GYPSY JOE —vs— **NICK BOCKWINKLE**

THE INFERNOS
ARE HERE

1968 - AMARILLO

This Ad Paid For By J. C. Dykes

SOUTHEASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP

Wrestling

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1979

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

SOUTHEASTERN TAG TEAM TITLE MATCH

DAVID SCHULTZ vs PAUL ORNDORFF
DENNIS CONDREY TONY ATLAS

SOUTHEASTERN TITLE MATCH

STERLING GOLDEN (Hogan) vs DICK SLATER

TAG TEAM MATCH

PIERRE LEFEVRE vs PAUL JONES
RICKY FIELDS BARON VON RASCHKE

"WILDFIRE" TOMMY RICH vs OX BAKER

TV TOURNAMENT MATCH

THE ANGEL vs JERRY ROBERTS

BILL IRWIN vs CARL FERGIE

Chattanooga
CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
8 P.M. - SATURDAY

TONIGHT'S CARD
MARCH 15th, 1980

★ MAIN EVENT ★

Return Grudge Match - No Referee
No Time Limit / No Disqualification
GYPSY JOE VS BOBBY EATON

One-Night Tournament for the
N.W.A. Mid-America Tag Belts!
Belts presented to the winners!

1st ROUND PAIRING --
TOJO YAMAMOTO & DUKE MYERS
VS
WAYNE FARRIS & LARRY LATHAM

GEORGE GULAS & ROCKY BREWER
VS
CHIEF THUNDERCLOUD & PAT ROSE

2nd ROUND - The winners of the two 1st round matches will meet and the winners will receive the belt!

KURT VON HESS & RANDY COLLINS
VS
DON FULTON & TOMMY WADE

KEN WAYNE
VS
THE BEAST

LUCKY NUMBER № 149

TONITE'S ALL-STAR
WRESTLING CARD

Special Challenge Grudge Tag Team Match
OLE ANDERSON & IVAN KOLOFF [ ]
vs
DUSTY RHODES &
COWBOY BILL WATTS [ ]
(2 Referees includes Tommy Rich: Police will surround the ring)

NWA Georgia Heavyweight Championship
KILLER KARL KOX [ ]
(Mgd. by Bobby Heenan)
vs
STAN HANSEN [ ]

Georgia Television Championship
ERNIE LADD [ ] vs RAY CANDY [ ]

LORD JONATHON BOYD [ ]
vs
TOMMY RICH [ ]

RICK OLIVER [ ] vs TENYRU [ ]

BILL HOWARD [ ] vs RANDY ALLS [ ]

Atlanta City Auditorium - Friday, Aug. 31, 1979
PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Check the Winner, X the Loser, O for Draw

NWA

THE CARD

Presented by Jim Crockett

MONDAY, JULY 3, 1967

Charlotte Coliseum

(WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF EVENTS)
PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. The Promotor is not responsible if contestants fail to appear in ring because of conditions beyond our control. Whenever possible substitute bouts will be arranged

MAIN-EVENT
FENCE MATCH
GEORGE BECKER vs HOMER O'DELL

SEMI-FINAL TAG TEAM MATCH
THE INFERNOS with Mgr. J. C. DYKES vs ALDO BOGNI and BRONCO LUBICH

FIFTH-EVENT
JOHNNY WEAVER vs MISSOURI MAULER

FOURTH-EVENT TAG TEAM MATCH
AMAZING ZUMA and NELSON ROYAL vs RIP HAWK and SWEDE HANSON

SPECIAL-EVENT GIRLS
FABULOUS MOOLAH vs DORIS NICHOLS

SECOND-EVENT
DON CHUY vs PAMPERO FIRPO

FIRST-EVENT
CHIEF LITTLE EAGLE vs PEDRO GODOY

COLUMBUS' 5,000 SEAT MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

WRESTLING
A - Fred Ward - Promotion

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
JULY 23, 1980

NWA

(WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF EVENTS)
PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE The promoter is not responsible if wrestlers fail to appear in the ring because of conditions beyond our control such as injuries, illness or accident

MAIN EVENT
WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
MUST BE A WINNER!!!
1-HOUR TIME LIMIT WITH
SUDDEN DEATH RULING!!!

(Champion) HARLEY RACE Wt. 247 KANSAS CITY, MO. vs. (Challenger) TOMMY RICH Wt. 235 NASHVILLE, TENN.

***SPECIAL REFEREE — LOU THESZ
(6 Times World Champion)!!!***

BOSTON STREET FIGHT
"MANIAC" MARK LEWIN Wt. 245 NEW YORK (man. by the Great Mephisto) vs. KEVIN SULLIVAN Wt. 230 BOSTON, MASS.

TAG TEAM FEATURE
THE ASSASSINS Comb. Wt. 525 ??????????? (Ga. Tag Team Champions) vs. MR. WRESTLING NO. 2 Wt. 236 ??????????? and STAN HANSEN Wt. 300 BORGER, TEXAS

GEORGIA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
(Champion) BARON VON RASCHKE Wt. 286 GERMANY vs. (Challenger) TONY ATLAS Wt. 250 ROANOKE, VA.

PLUS
DENNIS CONDREY Wt. 240 CHARLOTTE, N. C. vs. STEVE REGAL Wt. 225 INDIANA

PLUS
TERRY TAYLOR Wt. 227 FLORIDA vs. MIKE GEORGE Wt. 250 KANSAS CITY

WATCH CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

ON TV IN COLOR, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 - 5:00 P.M. THE "FLYING" SCOTTS, GEORGE AND SANDY MEET TONY ROMANO AND JIM OSBORNE IN THE FEATURE BOUT. IN ANOTHER TAG TEAM MATCH, J. C. DYKES' INFERNOS CLASH WITH ROGER KIRBY AND DENNIS HALL. BIG BILL WARD WILL BE AT THE MIKE AND INTERVIEW THE WINNERS.

CHANNEL 3 WBTV CHANNEL 3

EACH SATURDAY, 5:00 TO 6:00 P.M.

BIG BILL WARD

Charlotte, N.C. Oct. 1967